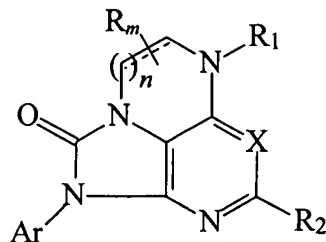


CLAIMS

1. A compound having the following structure:



and stereoisomers and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof,

wherein:

n is 1 or 2;

m is 0, 1, 2 or 3;

X is N or CR';

R is an optional substituent which, at each occurrence, is independently C₁₋₆alkyl, C₃₋₆alkenyl C₁₋₆alkylidenyl or C₁₋₆alkylAr;

R₁ is -C(H)_{0.1}(R₃)(R₄);

R₂ is hydrogen or C₁₋₆alkyl;

R₃ is hydrogen, keto, C₁₋₆alkyl, mono- or di(C₃₋₆cycloalkyl)methyl, C₃₋₆cycloalkyl, C₃₋₆alkenyl, hydroxyC₁₋₆alkyl, C₁₋₆alkylcarbonyloxyC₁₋₆alkyl, or C₁₋₆alkyloxyC₁₋₆alkyl, and

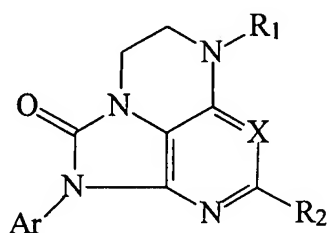
R₄ is hydrogen, Ar¹, C₁₋₆alkylAr¹, OAr¹, C₁₋₈alkyl, C₁₋₆alkyloxy, C₃₋₆cycloalkyl, mono- or di(C₃₋₆cycloalkyl)methyl, C₃₋₆alkenyl, C₃₋₆alkynyl, C₁₋₆alkyloxyC₁₋₆alkyl, C₁₋₆alkoxyAr¹, hydroxyC₁₋₆alkyl, thienylC₁₋₆alkyl, furanylC₁₋₆alkyl, C₁₋₆alkylthioC₁₋₆alkyl, morpholinyl, mono- or di(C₁₋₆alkyl)aminoC₁₋₆alkyl, amino, (C₁₋₆alkyl)amino, di(C₁₋₆alkyl)amino, (C₁₋₆alkylAr¹)amino, (C₁₋₆alkyl)(Ar¹)amino, C₁₋₆alkylcarbonylC₁₋₆alkyl, C₁₋₆alkylcarbonyloxyC₁₋₆alkyl, sulfonyl(C₁₋₈alkyl), C(=O)C₁₋₆alkyl, C₁₋₈alkyl substituted with phthalimide, Ar¹, OAr¹, NHAr¹, C(=O)Ar¹, C(=O)NHAr¹ or -C(=O)NH₂, or a radical of the formula -(C₁₋₆alkanediyl)-Y-(CO)_{0,1}-Ar¹ where Y is O, NH or a direct bond, or

R₃ and R₄ taken together with the carbon atom to which they are attached form a C₅₋₈cycloalkyl, a C₅₋₈cycloalkenyl, a C₃₋₁₂heterocycle, phenyl, naphthyl, or a C₅₋₈cycloalkyl fused to Ar¹, each of which being optionally substituted with one or more substituents independently selected from C₁₋₆alkyl;

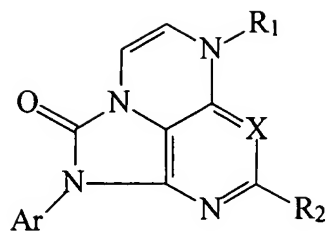
Ar is phenyl, naphthyl or an aromatic C₃₋₁₂heterocycle, each being optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 substituents independently selected from halo, C₁₋₆alkyl, trifluoromethyl, O(trifluoromethyl), hydroxy, cyano, C₁₋₆alkyloxy, phenoxy, benzoxy, C₁₋₆alkylthio, nitro, amino, mono- or di(C₁₋₆alkyl)amino, (C₁₋₆alkyl)(C₁₋₆alkanoyl)amino, or piperidinyl, or wherein two substituents taken together are a C₁₋₆alkylidinyll or a C₁₋₆alkylidenyl having one, two or three carbon atoms replaced with a heteroatom individually selected from oxygen, nitrogen or and sulfur; and

Ar¹ is phenyl, naphthyl or an aromatic C₃₋₁₂heterocycle, each of which being optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 substituents independently selected from halo, C₁₋₆alkyl, C₁₋₆alkyloxy, di(C₁₋₆alkyl)amino, di(C₁₋₆alkyl)aminoC₁₋₆alkyl, trifluoromethyl sulfonyl (C₁₋₆alkyl) and C₁₋₆alkyl substituted with morpholinyl.

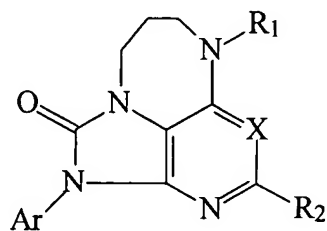
2. The compound of claim 1 wherein *n* is 1.
3. The compound of claim 2 having the structure



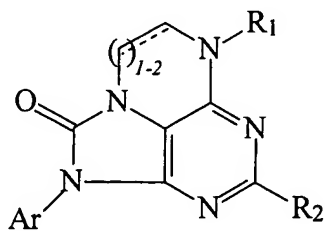
4. The compound of claim 2 having the structure



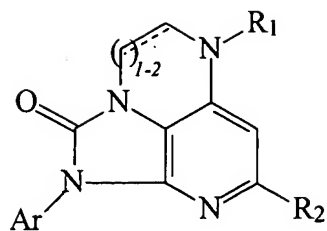
5. The compound of claim 1 wherein n is 2.
6. The compound of claim 5 having the structure



7. The compound of claim 1 wherein m is 0.
8. The compound of claim 7 having the structure:

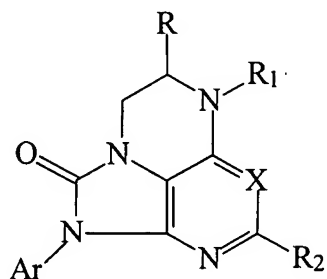


9. The compound of claim 7 having the structure:

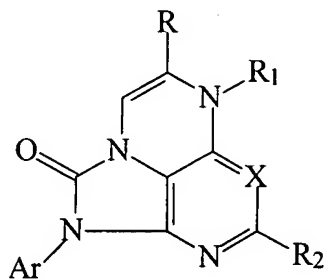


10. The compound of claim 1 wherein m is 1.

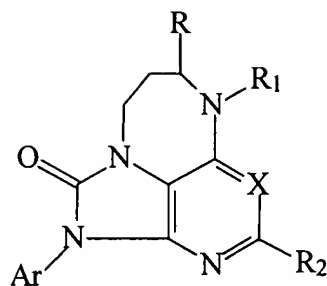
11. The compound of claim 10 having the structure:



12. The compound of claim 10 having the structure:



13. The compound of claim 10 having the structure:



14. The compound of claim 1 wherein X is CR' and R' is hydrogen.
15. The compound of claim 1 wherein X is N.
16. The compound of claim 1 wherein R is C₁₋₆alkyl.
17. The compound of claim 1 wherein R is methyl or ethyl.
18. The compound of claim 1 wherein R is ethyl.
19. The compound of claim 1 wherein Ar is 2,4,6-trimethylphenyl, 2-chloro-4-methylphenyl, 2-chloro-4-methoxyphenyl, 2-bromo-4-methylphenyl, 2-methyl-4-chlorophenyl, 2-methyl-4-bromophenyl, 2-bromo-4-isopropylphenyl, 2,4-dichlorophenyl, 2,6-dimethyl-4-bromophenyl, 4-chlorophenyl, 2,4-dimethoxyphenyl, 2,4-dimethylphenyl, 2-methoxyphenyl, 3-methoxyphenyl, 4-methoxyphenyl, 2-methyl-4-methoxyphenyl, 3,4-dimethoxyphenyl, 3,5-dimethoxyphenyl, 4-trifluoromethylphenyl, 2,4,6-trifluorophenyl, 2-methyl-4-N(ethyl)₂phenyl, 2-bromo-4-(OCF₃)phenyl, 4-dimethylamino-2-methylpyridin-3-yl, 4-dimethylamino-6-methylpyridin-3-yl, 4-dimethylamino-pyridin-3-yl, 4-N(CH₃)(Ac)phenyl, 5-methylisoxazol-3-yl, 3,4-methylenedioxyphenyl or 3,4-ethylenedioxyphenyl.

20. The compound of claim 1 wherein Ar is 2,4,6-trimethylphenyl, 2-methyl-4-chlorophenyl, 2-chloro-4-methylphenyl, 2,4-dichlorophenyl, 2,6-dimethyl-4-bromophenyl, 2-bromo-4-methylphenyl, 4-methoxyphenyl or 4-chlorophenyl.

21. The method of claim 1 wherein R₁ is methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, iso-propyl, n-butyl, iso-butyl, tert-butyl, n-pentyl, iso-pentyl, neo-pentyl, -CH(ethyl)₂, -CH(n-propyl)₂, -CH(n-butyl)₂, -CH₂CH₂OCH₃, -CH(methyl)(CH₂OCH₃), -CH(ethyl)(CH₂OCH₃), -CH(n-propyl)(CH₂OCH₃), -CH(n-butyl)(CH₂OCH₃), -CH(tert-butyl)(CH₂OCH₃), -CH(CH₂OCH₃)₂, -CH(benzyl)(CH₂OCH₃), -CH(4-chlorobenzyl)(CH₂OCH₃), -CH(CH₂OCH₃)(CH₂CH₂SCH₃), -CH(ethyl)(CH₂Obenzyl), -CHC≡CH, -CH(methyl)(ethyl), -CH(methyl)(n-propyl), -CH(methyl)(n-butyl), -CH(methyl)(n-pentyl), -CH(methyl)(CH₂CH₂CH₂CH(CH₃)₂), -CH(ethyl)(n-propyl), -CH(ethyl)(n-butyl), -CH(ethyl)(n-pentyl),), -CH(n-propyl)(n-butyl), -CH(n-propyl)(n-pentyl), cyclopropyl, cyclobutyl, cyclohexyl, 2-methylcyclohexyl, 3-methylcyclohexyl, 1,2,3,4-tetrahydronaphthyl (1 and 2), benzyl, 2-chlorobenzyl, -CH(methyl)(benzyl), -CH(ethyl)(benzyl), -CH(n-propyl)(benzyl), -CH(n-butyl)(benzyl), -CH₂(cyclopropyl), -CH₂(cyclobutyl), -CH₂CH(methyl)CH₂CH₃, -CH₂CH(ethyl)CH₂CH₃, -CH₂C(methyl)₃, -CH₂C≡CH, -CH₂C(=O)ethyl, -C(=O)cyclopropyl, -C(=O)NHbenzyl, -C(=O)methyl, -C(=O)benzyl, -C(=O)phenyl, -C(=O)ethyl, -C(=O)CH₂C(=O)Oethyl, -C(=O)CH(phenyl)ethyl, C(=O)pyridyl, -C(=O)(4-N,N-dimethylamino)phenyl, -C(=O)CH₂Omethyl, -C(=O)CH(ethyl)₂, -C(=O)n-butyl, -C(=O)CH₂CH₂(methyl)₂, -C(=O)n-propyl, -C(=O)CH₂CH₂phenyl, -CH₂pyridyl, -CH₂CH₂NHphenyl, -CH₂CH₂C(=O)Oethyl, -CH₂CH₂CH₂phenyl, -CH₂CH₂-N-phthalimide, -CH₂CH₂CH₂C(=O)Oethyl, -CH₂CH₂Oethyl, -CH₂CH(methyl)₂, -CH₂C(=O)Oethyl, -CH₂C(=O)pyrrohdinophenyl, -CH₂CH₂Ophenyl, -CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂-N-phthalimide, -CH₂C(=O)Ot-butyl, -CH₂CH₂CH(methyl)₂, -CH₂C(=O)NH₂, -CH₂-4-(SO₂CH₃)phenyl, -CH₂CH₂pyrolyl and benzyl.

22. The compound of claim 1 wherein R₁ is -CH(ethyl)₂, -CH(n-propyl)₂, -CH(ethyl)(n-butyl) or -CH(ethyl)(n-pentyl).

23. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

24. A method for treating a disorder manifesting hypersecretion of CRF in a warm-blooded animal in need thereof, comprising administering to the animal an effective amount of the pharmaceutical composition of claim 23.

25. The method of claim 24 wherein the disorder is stroke.

26. The method of claim 24 wherein the disorder is depression, anxiety disorder, panic disorder, obsessive-compulsive disorder, abnormal aggression, unstable angina, reactive hypertension, anorexia nervosa, bulimia, irritable bowel syndrome, stress-induced immune suppression, inflammation, Cushing's disease, substance abuse or withdrawal, infantile spasms, or epilepsy.